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"A good school at the heart of the community"

Wednesday 13th January 2016

Dear parents, carers, families and friends,

A surprise early newsletter (and a paper version too!) this week, because the forecasts keep mentioning **snow**. We thought it would be helpful, especially for parents who are new to the school, to send out a reminder of what happens if the weather does its best to sabotage the day!

The first thing to say is that we do our best to keep the school open. If we *did* have to close, or if we could only open later in the day, it would be because we're concerned about one of two things: Health and safety – will remaining open constitute a significant risk to pupils and/or staff? and/or the availability of staff – has the severe weather meant that a significant number of staff members have been unable to attend, making it impossible to open? If we can't guarantee a safe day for everyone and we have no choice but to close the school - or possibly to open later in the day - **we'll do our best to let everyone know about any changes by 7am.** We will:

- Send out a **text** from the school mobile (so you really need to let us know if you've changed your number!)
- Put a message on the school **website** in the important message pop up on the Home Page
- Put a message on the school **Twitter** account (@HeatherPrimary)
- Send a message via **BBC Radio Leicester** (104.9 FM) – with so many schools trying to contact them, it can be hard for us to get through to them, so if you think the weather might be an issue, please check one of the other three options in this list for information.

We DON'T use Facebook – there won't be an official message from the school on there.

Two last things to mention –

- (1) If you're an early Breakfast Club user, it's really important that you check for messages about the school before setting off if the weather is severe. If you've got an After School Club booking and the school is open, check whether we're able to stay open as late as usual. We need to make sure that everyone gets home safely at the end of the day!
- (2) We can make a decision about the safety of the school building and grounds – we can't make a decision about the safety of your route to school. We realise that, especially for families travelling from outside our catchment area, the conditions at the start of your journey might be far worse. Please make a decision you're safe and happy with about setting off for school.

We hope this information is helpful to you. Please get in touch if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

All best wishes – Ms Harrison and the staff of Heather Primary School.



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